

ANCIENT SKIES

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SENSATION INSIDE THE GREAT PYRAMID

BY ERICH VON DANIKEN*

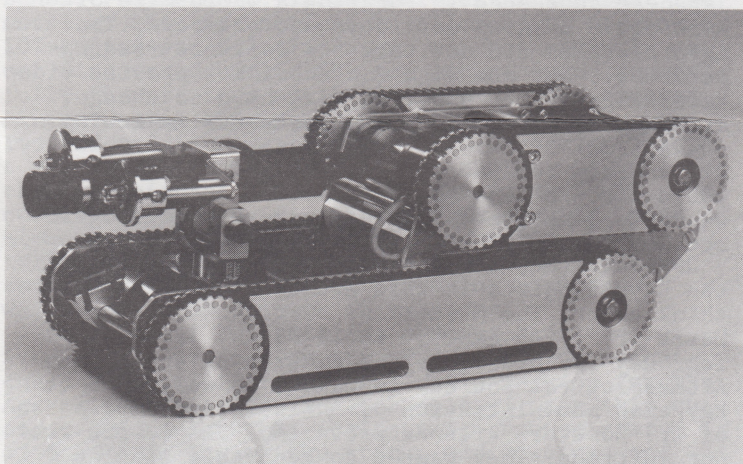
The video tape playing in front of me is well worth 5 million dollars. It shows the greatest sensation in the last 1200 years! In 821 AD, Kalif Abdullah Al-Ma'mun, son of the famous Harun al Raschid, sent a raiding party to the Great Pyramid of the Pharaoh Cheops at Giza near Cairo, Egypt. After an incredible amount of effort and pain, the men hacked a passage into the thousands of years old stone structure. It is the same passage which tourists today use to enter the pyramid.

During the last 100 years, Egyptologists have thoroughly explored the inside of the Great Pyramid. Were there still secrets? Still hidden channels and passageways and obstructed chambers, as claimed by old Egyptian records? "No," the experts stated. "No more dreaming."

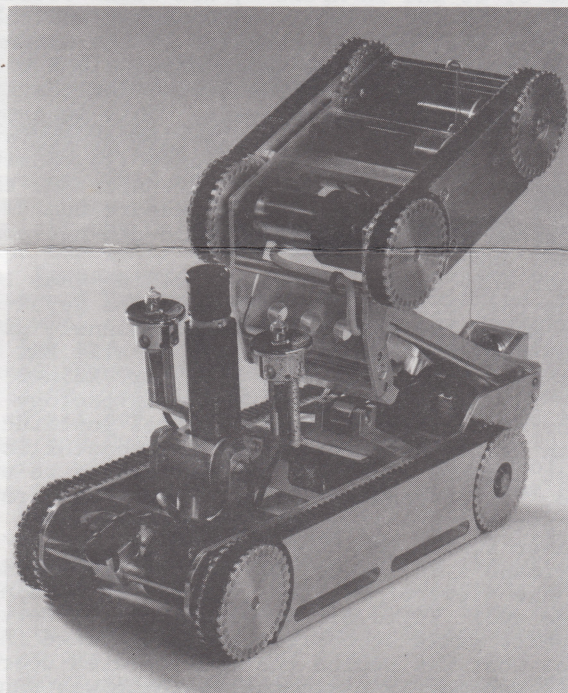
But now the German engineer, Rudolf Gantenbrink (born 1950), succeeded in a stroke of genius. Gantenbrink constructed a sophisticated robot, a small caterpillar-like vehicle, with a lot of electronics, laser beams and a built-in miniature video camera. Technical support for the project was supplied to Gantenbrink by the Swiss firm ESCAP in Geneva (specialty motors), HILIT AB in Vaduz, Liechtenstein (drilling techniques) and by the GORE Company in Munich, Germany (specialty cables). Gantenbrink's remote controlled robot moved like a voracious miniature monster through one of the narrow passages leading from the Queen's Chamber towards the top of the structure. The beam from the headlight at the bow of the robot illuminated scenes which no humans have seen for at least 4500 years. Cheops, the supposed builder of the pyramid, ruled from 2551 to 2528 BC.

Meter by meter the technical miracle worked its way past smoothly polished walls, overcoming small accumulations of sand and natural stone, and then,

*Mr. von Daniken's first book, *Chariots of the Gods?*, published in 1968, was an immediate best-seller. Since then he has written 20 other books in the ancient astronaut field, all of which have been best-sellers, but his latest books have not been translated into English. His books have sold almost 57 million copies throughout the world. Mr. von Daniken is enjoying a resurgence of popularity as a result of his highly-successful, year-long TV series currently being shown in Europe. He continues to set a fast pace with his travelling, lecturing and writing, producing a new book each year. He operates the Society's office in Switzerland and oversees publication of the German edition of *Ancient Skies*. His address is Baselstrasse 1, 4532 Feldbrunnen/So, SWITZERLAND.



Above and Below: Two views of the Gantenbrink Pyramid Robot. Fully-extended, the robot is about 30cm long. Photos: Rudolf Gantenbrink, Munich, Germany.



after the incredible distance of 65 inclined meters from the Queen's Chamber, there was a sensational find - a broken-off piece of metal was lying on the floor! Never before has metal been found inside the
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Great Pyramid. Shortly thereafter the robot's camera caught some kind of sliding door, which had obviously led into the shaft from above. In the middle of this door were two metal braces, one of them partially broken off. Gantenbrink steered the robot towards the door and aimed the laser beam at the lower edge. The beam disappeared under the door. This was proof that the sliding door was not firmly resting on the floor. The path of the robot, however, was now blocked.

Until now the Egyptologists have assumed that the quadratic tunnel, with sides measuring only 20cm, had to be an airshaft. That illusion is gone. One of the puzzles of history, hidden at least 4500 years ago, is behind that mysterious, closed metal-plated door.

In 1987 a highly qualified team from Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, X-rayed the Great Pyramid with electronic equipment (1). As a result, the Japanese succeeded in locating a whole maze of heretofore unknown corridors and chambers. The Egyptologists did not take the Japanese readings seriously, but now with Gantenbrink's precise video recordings, their position will have to change. Although Rudolf Gantenbrink succeeded in making a sensational discovery, he is not seeking publicity. His concern remains in preserving antiquities. He would like to lend new impulses to archaeology and wants to make archaeological research once again attractive.

However, the outright hypocritical behavior of the Egyptologists in this matter gives me a lot to think about. The mysterious door was discovered on March 22, 1993, exactly at 11:05 AM. It was a perfect day for discovery and experts of the German Archaeological Society in Cairo, as well as the Egyptian Administration of Antiquities, were aware of it! However, silence prevailed. The public was not informed. They wanted to keep this finding among themselves, and the public would not have learned anything even to this day if Rudolf Gantenbrink had not been there. He showed a copy of the phenomenal video to some experts. The British press got wind of it and on April 7, two weeks after the discovery, the first small announcement was published (2). What was the reaction of the German Archaeological Institute, which after all had a part in the discovery and knew the truth? The Institute in Cairo denied the announcement. "This is complete rubbish," the speaker for the Institute, Christel Egorov, told the Reuters News Agency (3). Further, "The tunnels found were merely airshafts and the minirobot had only been used to measure humidity. It was known that the Great Pyramid did not contain any other chambers." (3).

You not only think someone is pulling your leg, you know they are pulling your leg! The robot, during its march through the Pyramid's tunnel, did not have any humidity gauges on board at all! But it becomes even more ludicrous. Prof. Dr. Rainer Stadelmann, the great master of German Egyptology and Director of the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) in Cairo, outright denied the possibility of a secret chamber. In front of journalists he explained, "It is generally known that every treasure in the pyramid has long been plundered. There is no chamber behind the door." (4).

Stadelmann's colleague, Dr. Gunter Dreyer, confirmed the views of his boss, "There is nothing behind the door. It is all imagination." (5) Certainly the experts would be correct if they stated that no one knew what was behind the metal plated door. However, to vehemently claim that nothing was behind it, is not only dogmatic and unscientific, but, citing the word of the DAI itself, "rubbish!" Mr. David Keys, correspondent for archaeology, noticed something curious (6). The distance in height from the floor of the Queen's Chamber to the floor of the King's Chamber above it is 21.5 meters, exactly

the same distance that lies between the floor of the King's Chamber and the assumed new chamber. For a better understanding: The robot started its adventure on the south wall of the Queen's Chamber, then it rattled first 2 meters horizontally before starting its laborious climb at an angle of 45 degrees. After about 40 meters it crossed a plate. It could be a floor plate or it could have fallen from the ceiling. Passages with sand and rough walls followed, which looked like coarse plasterwork. Finally, after about 65 meters, finely polished sides of sandstone or alabaster were found, and beyond that, the mysterious door. If the shaft would continue, it would reach the outer wall of the pyramid after another 25 meters.

A small piece is missing in the lower right hand corner of the door and there some dark sand was found. British experts think that this could indicate organic material, like bones or linen (7). We still do not know what is hidden behind the door. Anything is possible. I would like to refer to the Arabic manuscripts cited in my book, *The Eyes of the Sphinx*, at pages 254-273 (8). In the 14th Century, old Arabic and Coptic manuscripts were lying around Cairo's libraries, which the geographer and historian, Takiad-Din Ahmad ben 'Ali ben 'Abel al-Kadir ben Muhammad al-Makrizi (1364-1442) had compiled into his work "Hitat." In "Hitat" one can read things which strike us like fairy tales from the "One Thousand and One Nights." For example:

"Then the builder had put thirty treasure chambers of colored granite into the western pyramid; they were filled with rich treasures, with instruments and picture columns of precious stones, with equipment of fine iron, like weapons which do not rust, glass you can fold without breaking, with strange charms, various kinds of simple and mixed medicines and with deadly poisons." (9) And who should be responsible for the building of the pyramids according to the Arabian records? In "Hitat" it is reported, "The first Hermes, was called 'Trinity', because of his functions as prophet, king and wise man. It is he, called Henoch by the Hebrews, son of Jared, son of Mahalalel, the son of Kenan, son of Enos, son of Seth, the son of Adam and he is Idris. He read in the stars that the flood would come. In order to protect his belongings he had the pyramids built and hid treasures in them, learned writings and everything else he was concerned about that could get lost and disappear."

The record that the Old Testament prophet Henoch (Enoch) might be the same person as on the one hand, the son of the god Hermes, and on the other hand, the progenitor of the Arabs, Idris, is very exciting. It could hardly be pure fantasy, otherwise Henoch would not have been listed with all the names of his ancestors. In addition, Henoch (alias Idris, alias Hermes) is not named as having built the Great Pyramid in "Hitat" alone. The Arabian explorer and writer ibn Battuta (14th Century) is assuring us of the same:

"Henoch erected the Pyramid before the flood, in order to preserve in it books of science and knowledge, as well as other valuable items."

Exactly on target, however, is Muhammad ben Abdallah ben Abel al-Hakam, a 12th Century scholar, who wrote:

"In my opinion, the pyramids could only have been built before the flood, because had they been built after it, mankind would be informed about them."

An excellent argument. Not refutable. But of course, we do not know how much of the Arabian historians and writers descriptions were fabrications, and whether they had anything to do with the door which has just been discovered. However, one thing is certain, the 65 meter-long tunnel travelled by the robot had to be part of the planning for the pyramid from the very beginning. There was no other way, because no one, not even a child, could have chiseled

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a shaft of 20cm in width and height out of the stone of the pyramid after it was built. Not to speak of the highly polished walls. The shaft grew with the pyramid and was a fixed part of its design.

However, the experts claim that there is no chamber and if there should be one, it contains nothing since "robbers have long ago cleaned out all the chambers." (6)

The rubbish fed to the public by the experts is hard to believe. Perhaps one of them can explain to us how the robbers managed to crawl into a shaft 20 centimeters wide. Just measure 20cm on your ruler! The grave robbers must have had intelligent snakes that could crawl up the 65 meter long tunnel! And finally, at their goal, the alleged grave robbers either did not even open the door, or if they did, they politely closed it again.

We do not know of any other access to the clearly seen door and if there is one, the matter would be even more embarrassing for the Egyptologists. This, you see, would mean that there are more tunnels. Then there is the variant that the grave robbers prepared an access for themselves from the outside. This again would mean that an accessible tunnel would have to have been hacked through, but as everyone knows, the south wall of the pyramid has been intact for thousands of years.

The more I think about the success of the modest, unassuming, clean-cut, hard-working Mr. Gantenbrink, who designed the robot, the more angered I become about the behavior of the experts. Once again there is a mystery lingering. Once again the public is excluded. The idea that the pyramid does not contain anything but the known passages and rooms, originates from the same experts. There is a lack of courage to admit that they were wrong. There is also a lack of will to make archaeological discoveries known to the public. The Great Pyramid is not the property of some archaeologists. It, and all other constructions of early history, belong to all of mankind, which has a right to rapid, extensive and honest information. Don't my friends from Egyptology realize that they become less credible with each game of hide and seek they play? That people won't believe them anymore, even if the chamber proves to be empty? I would like to be present when that mysterious door in the 65 meter shaft is opened, or when an endoscope is slipped through the small opening at the lower right hand rim of the door. How else can I believe the reports of the Egyptologists otherwise?

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JAMES DEARDORFF's new book Celestial Teachings is available from Wild Flower Press, P.O. Box 230893, Tigard, OR 97224.

THUMBING THROUGH AN OLD SCRAPBOOK OF NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS CIRCA 1970, I FOUND THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST:

"The evidence for an unsuspected ancient civilization extends into many fields. Our ancestors seem to have inherited a sophisticated knowledge of metalworking from an earlier civilization. Not long ago, pre-Inca Peruvian ornaments and other objects made out of platinum were discovered. But in order to melt platinum, a temperature of about 1,755 degrees Celsius must be reached. We have no satisfactory answer to the question of how the ancient Peruvians were able to produce such a heat.

"A few years ago a metal belt-fastener with openwork ornamentation was found in China, in the burial site of the famous general of the Chin Dynasty, Chou Chu, who lived from 265AD to 316AD. The fastener was examined by the Institute of Applied Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and by the Dunbai Polytechnic. Their analyses showed that the metal of the fastener was an alloy of 5% manganese, 10% copper and 85% aluminium, which supposedly was not discovered until 1803 and not produced successfully in pure form until 1854. Today, the process of extracting aluminium from bauxite is very complicated and involves the use of a Reverberier Oven, a refraction chamber and a regenerator, as well as electrolysis and temperatures exceeding 950°C. The question is: Where did the Chinese acquire these elements of twentieth-century technology in the third century? It is possible that they may have even possessed methods of producing aluminium which are still unknown to us today.

"The ancient Palestinians seem to have specialized in the perfection of metal-hardening techniques. Prof. Clifford Wilson, while working for the Australian Institute of Archaeology, made this observation concerning a Palestinian bronze statue of Baal: One leg of the statue was missing, and when metalworkers were commissioned to add a modern one, they were surprised to find that they could not duplicate the original bronze. To their dismay and frustration, it was harder than any they could make."

Unfortunately, I cannot relate this article to any particular author because the newspaper clipping is undated and unsigned. David M. Stewart, 38 Bold Street, Apt. A10, Southport, PR9 0ED, ENGLAND.

ARRANGEMENTS ARE COMPLETED FOR OUR EXCITING MEMBER EXPEDITION TO PERU AND BOLIVIA FOR MAY 5-19, 1994. Members may join the expedition in Chicago, Miami or Lima, Peru. Arriving in Lima on May 6, the group will visit the Gold, Anthropology and Erotica Museums and the ruins at Pachacamac. Then overland to Pisco, Paracas and Ica, where the Archaeological and Cabrera Stones Museums will be visited. Small planes will take the members over the Candelabro at Pisco Bay and the amazing markings on the Plain of Nazca. From Lima the group will fly to La Paz, Bolivia to visit the Murillo and Gold Museums and then an all day tour of the fantastic ruins at Tiahuanaco and Puma Punku at an elevation of 13,500 ft. The party will cross Lake Titicaca by hydrofoil, seeing the Island of the Sun and Copacabana before Puno, Peru. Next a visit to the floating Uros Indian village on Lake Titicaca and the mysterious chullpas at Sillustani, before taking the breathtaking train trip through the Andes to Cuzco, ancient capital city of the Incas. The Cuzco area includes visits to Sacsayhuaman, Ke'enko, Ollantaytambo and Pisac. An exciting six-hour train ride into the Urubamba River gorge takes the group to the amazing ruins of Machu Picchu, the "Lost City of the Incas", where they will spend the night.

Prices for the Expedition are US\$3,587 from Chicago, US\$3,337 from Miami and US\$2,487 in Lima. Prices are double occupancy; single is US\$375 extra. Space is limited. Write today for complete details.

SPACE TRAVEL AND TECHNOLOGY IN ANCIENT EPICS

BY DR. GULTEKIN CAYMAZ*

According to the Mahabharata, a book of epic poems relating the legends of the Gods Vishnu and Siva, there were space travels in ancient India. Vimanas were the vehicles of those travels. Many Sanskrit scholars consider the statements contained in the Mahabharata to be true, not imagination.

The Western world does not have a Mahabharata. To perpetuate our most ancient legends we rely on mythology, included in which are the works of the Greek poet Homer, considered to be a recent poet in literature. But is he really so recent as Herodotus believed? He says that Homer lived perhaps 500 years before Herodotus lived, who lived 500 years before Christ. Thus, we are taught that Homer lived 3,000 years ago, but if so, how come he is speaking about the lives of people mentioned in his two epic poems, the Iliad and the Odyssey, as if he were so familiar with them? Was he using only his imagination and creating false, non-existing images of creatures, as was thought all along, until Heinrich Schliemann found the treasures mentioned by Homer, first in Troy and then in Mycineae? Just because Homer spoke about giants, mixed creatures like sirens and Olympic gods like Zeus, Apollo and Athena, it was considered that all he said was a work of his fertile imagination. How do we know that those creatures did not exist?

Many people in this century have found the bones of giant humans. I have seen the graves of a few giants and have held the teeth of a giant man in my hand. Thus today we know personally that Homer was not lying about the giants either.

When the first Russian cosmonaut, or the first American astronaut went into space, they did not go to the Moon, or to Mars. They just made a quick tour around the world in a few hours. According to Homer, a ship of the Phaeacians carrying Odysseus was able to make a quick trip from their home land on the Island of Corfu to Ithaca in Greece and back to Corfu the same day. This was soon after the war in Troy. This fast moving ship of the Phaeacians is not my imagination. In the 8th rhapsody of the Odyssey, Homer speaks about the lives of the Phaeacians and how far advanced they were and how kind and gentle they were. In verses 550 to 560, Alcinoos, chief of the Phaeacians, tells Odysseus that if he gives his real name and true home address, their self-intelligent ships can take him home quickly, because these ships have their own intelligence and know the major cities of the world. They reach their destinations without error. Fog or clouds do not prevent them from reaching their destination. They do not have rudders nor steermen, but they do not have accidents. The fast-moving ship of the Phaeacians is not my imagination. This is all written in the Odyssey epic.

What is described here resembles the vimanas of ancient India and the UFOs of today. All these are more advanced than our own aircraft. Yes, with automatic pilots our airplanes can go to far places and if they have certain on-board computers they can attack certain targets easily by themselves. Fog and cloud do not disturb them. But they do have rudder-like wings and tails and they have steermen, pilots. The ships of the Phaeacians were more advanced than our present airplanes and they were free of accidents, unlike our aircraft. Thus, the Phaeac people were more advanced than our present civilization.

But what about the people of Troy? Were they more advanced than we are? All that is left from the Troy civilization are stone walls, some clay pots and some jewelery, which was found by Schliemann. But the stone walls have the proof that the makers of the walls were more advanced than we are now. Because there are jigsaw puzzle-like locking joints in

the stone walls. In jigsaw puzzles, cardboard is cut in an irregular fashion so that the adjoining pieces fit each other perfectly, because each piece was in contact with the others before the board was cut. But we cannot cut the granite stones weighing several tons like that today with our present technology. This indicates that the people who cut some of the stones in the walls of Troy were more advanced than we are now, like the Phaeacians who made the self-intelligent ships, or the people who made the vimanas. All these advanced people were called Atlanteans, by an error made much, much later on by the Egyptian priest who spoke to Solon. This civilization was in existence perhaps 12,000 years ago, and its story of Atlantis reached Plato with more errors and with many important facts missing, like their superior technology in space travel, using electricity, artificial lighting, and crystal energy to create robots, such as the sirens, sphinxes and pegasus. Pictures of some of these robots were on granite sarcophagae in Egypt, notably on those which are now on display in Room 35 in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, Egypt.

The famous American psychic, Edgar Cayce, the sleeping prophet, said that the documents indicating the activities of the Atlanteans could be found in museums in Egypt. What I found was some of what he said. He also said that besides creating these robots, they also used electricity, radio communication, crystal energy, and light energy to travel in space and under the sea. Through psychic means he diagnosed correctly illnesses of thousands of people and suggested sometimes unusual therapies which were very beneficial to thousands of people for over 40 years. As a medical doctor, I have studied many of these medical records and I realized how valuable they were to me in several patients. Thus his medical views became proven facts for me. Afterwards, when I read about his views on Atlantis and other ancient civilizations, I had no logical reason to consider them to be only his imagination.

When we are searching for the truth, like diagnosing a sickness, we rely on our experience, our intuition and the available data from laboratories and from other peoples' experiences and intuitions. Not many people can have correct intuitive knowledge. The Oracles of Delphi were famous at one time in history. Edgar Cayce was a person who made correct predictions and diagnosed illnesses correctly for thousands of times. Why shouldn't I rely on what he says. He said that the civilization of the time around 50,000 to 10,500 BC had spaceships. That civilization was later erroneously called Atlantis. Homer said that at the time of the Trojan War, the Phaeacians had intelligent ships which travelled around the world in one day. The Mahabharata says that vimanas were like space ships. Why should I assume that all these are lies or only imagination?

Dr. Caymaz delivered the foregoing paper at the 20th Anniversary World Conference of the Ancient Astronaut Society in Las Vegas, Nevada in August, 1993. A practicing physician for over 30 years, Dr. Caymaz has also written several books. His address is Nur Sokak 58-1, Ankara, TURKEY.

THE NEXT WORLD CONFERENCE OF THE ANCIENT ASTRONAUT SOCIETY will be held in Bern, Switzerland, August 17-20, 1995. Details and prices will be available in mid-1994.

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